

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

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R 231321Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5512

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 6009

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN,BG

SUBJECT: INDI-BANGLADESH RELATIONS: PRESS COVERAGE

1. DELHI PRESS APRIL 23 REPORTS THAT THE INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER IS NOW QUIET. THE DUTY DIRECTORS OF THE BORDER SECURITY FORCES OF BOTH COUNTRIES ARE SAID TO HAVE MET ON APRIL 21, AND THEIR NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 3 ON THE BANGLADESH SIDE.

2. DRAWING ON THE "WASHINGTON POST," SEVERAL DELHI PAPERS FRONT-PAGE THE STORY THAT LT. COL. KHANDAKAR ABDUR RASHID IS BACK IN DACCA TO NEGOTIATE THE RETURN OF THE OTHER "MAJORS." THE "STATESMAN" HEADLINES THE STORY: "ASSASSINS OF MUJIB BACK IN DACCA; PATRONAGE BY NEW REGIME." THE ARTICLE LINKS THE BORDER CLASHES AND THE "STRIDENT ANTI-INDIA" PROPAGANDA IN BANGLADESH TO THE RETURN OF THE "MAJORS,"

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A FEW OF WHOM ARE SAID TO BE BACK IN BANGLADESH.CITING

"WELL INFORMED SOURCES," THE "STATESMAN/ ARTICLE SAYS THAT THE BDG BY ALLOWING THE "MAJORS" TO RETURN IS STRENGTHENING THE HANDS OF THE "REACTIONARIES AND THE COMMUNALISTS WHO ARE FANNING THIANI-INDIA CAMPAIGN." THE THREAT OF MAULANA BHASHANI TO LEAD A MARCH TO FARAKKA IS MENTIONED IN THIS CONTEXT. THE "INDIAN EXPRESS" CARRIES SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME STORY UNDER THE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE: "MUJIB KILERS RETURNING TO ASSUME ACTIVE ROLE; DACCA YIELDS TO PRESSURE."

3. BOTH THE CPI'S DAILY "PATRIOT" AND THE "HINDUSTAN TIMES" EDITORIALIZE ON BANGLADESH APRIL 23. BOTH PLACE THE FULL ONUS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RECENT CLASHES ON THE FULL BDG, CLAIMING THAT INDIA HAS CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED A POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARD BANGLADESH. THE "PATRIOT" ACCUSES "SOME FOREIGN INTERESTS" WHO OPPOSED BANGLADESH INDEPENDENCE OF NOW "CHAMPIONING" AN ANTI-INDIA POSTURE BY THE BDG.SAXBE

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